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Spends Time, Money Investigating Assassinations

Bernard Fensterwald Jr., wealthy former Senate committee counsel, studies details of Kennedys, King killings.

ONE-MAN INVESTIGATION

Probe of 3 Assassinations Continues

By SHELBY COFFEY III

WASHINGTON (WP) — There have been periods when Bernard Fensterwald Jr. has stood near the hot center of power in Washington, when he was quoted and sought by an admiring press corps. Back in 1965, when Fensterwald was general counsel of a Senate subcommittee investigating the abuses of government invasions of privacy he and Bobby Kennedy lashed out at each other in public and in private.

Now Bud Fensterwald's pale eyes narrow slightly when he says "I know what I'm doing is unpopular." What he is doing, aside from private law

practice, is pursuing a pastime that has sometimes come to be associated with a legion of fools and opportunists: He is investigating the assassinations of Robert and John Kennedy and of Martin Luther King Jr.

Bud Fensterwald is no ordinary conspiracy-seeker, looking to turn a fast review of flaws in the Warren Report into an instant paperback and cheap publicity.

Pores Over Documents

These days, he tries to arrive at his offices at about "7 in the morning when things are quiet" to pore over documents addressed to his own CIA — the Committee to Investigate Assassinations. CIA is a loose confed-

eration of people who have written or worked on the various conspiracy theories.

At his own expense Fensterwald took an "8,000-mile junket" last May, traveling to Los Angeles, Dallas, New Orleans, Atlanta and Memphis among other locations. He talked with James Earl Ray's lawyers, examined slides of John Kennedy's assassination, visited with the controversial Jim Garrison, and dozens of others, either fascinated or peripherally (or not so peripherally) connected with the three major political murders of the 60s.

In a recent brief, breezily-styled "Progress Report" to his fellow CIA members ("there is

no implication at all in the title," says Fensterwald with a bit of a wry grin), the executive director declared that funds were "generally non-existent!" and that the venture needed angels but none had materialized.

As the report mentions the assortment of famous and obscure people Fensterwald had talked with, an optimism emerges — there were a number of "fascinating leads" to be chased after and explored and not enough time to do it all in. But there is always a chance "next trip."

To friends and acquaintances who find Fensterwald's recent activities strange, he replies with the certainty of a man who

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